Compensation to passengers for flight delays

3955. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that recently a European Court has given a ruling about guaranteeing passenger compensation due to flight delays or cancellations without making any discrimination between a normal-fare airlines or low-cost airlines;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry will also make it mandatory for all airlines (including low-cost) that in case of cancellations or delayed flights, passengers are entitled for due compensation according to the usual international conventions/practices; and

(c) whether the nature of compensations, either hotel accommodation or refereshment etc. will be worked out in consultation with airlines operating in India and the details thereof which are publicized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The European Court of Justice in its rulling turned down the appeal made by International Air Transport Association challenging certain provisions of the EC Regulation on compensation to passengers by carriers operating out of the European Union, in the event of denied, boarding, long delays and cancellations.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, Airlines have their own system of providing compensation in such cases. Moreover Consumer "Fora under the Consumer Protection Act have been set up by the Government for dealing with the complaints regarding deficiency in service which includes services provided by air carriers.

Amount spent on airport modernisation

3956. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the modernisation and privatisation process of Delhi and Mumbai airports;

(b) what amount has already been spent in the process; and

(c) the target dates of the completion of both the airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government has sleeted two private partners for modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports. Two separate Joint Venture Companies (JVCs) for Delhi and Mumbai airports have been formed. Operation, Management and Development Agreement (OMDA), Shareholders' Agreement (SHA), Lease Deed, State Support, State Government Support and CNS/ATM Agreements have been executed. The two airports have come under joint management of Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the JVCs with effect from 3rd May, 2006.

(b) AAI had appointed Financial, Legal, Technical and Tax Consultants at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 9 crores.

(c) The target date for completion of stage-1 of the development is 31st March, 2010 for both the airports.

Parking problem at airport

3957. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: SHRI LALIT SURI: SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: SHRI V HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India are aware of the acute parking problems being faced by passengers at the Delhi and Mumbai airports;

(b) whether the authority has the requisite expertise to resolve such passenger related problems;

(c) if so, the steps contemplated to resolve the problem; and

(d) whether Government propose to engage experts/organization in the private sector to resolve the problem at the major airports, in case the Authority is unable to cope with the situation and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Airports Authority of India has handed over the management of IGI Airport, Delhi and CSI Airport, Mumbai to Joint Venture Companies namely Delhi International Airport Private Limited (DIAPL) and Mumbai International Airport Private Limited (MIAPL) with